REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	21 August 2000
Name of applicant/court:	The Project to Counter Stigma and Discrimination Associated with the Mental Illness of Health Funding Authority
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	20th Century Fox Film Distributors
Title of Publication:	Me, Myself And Irene
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Directors:	Bobby Farrelly, Peter Farrelly
Producers:	Bradley Thomas, Bobby Farrelly, Peter Farrelly
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Film 35mm
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Me, Myself And Irene	Running time:	117.44
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Running time:	117.44

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 15 years.

Display Conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Content may offend.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: 21 August 2000

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

Me, Myself and Irene is a film of the bad taste genre portrayed to excess.

The film centres around the trials and tribulations of a Rhode Island State policeman, Charlie, who after years of suppressing his true feelings and emotions and avoiding confrontation with others, manifests another personality of the form of Hank who gives vent to Charlie's pent up feelings aggressively and abnoxiously [sic].

Charlie, is played by Jim Carrey, the main actor who has become associated with a particular brand of bad taste humour for which this film is a vehicle.

The Applicant had submitted that the film drew on and reinforced common stigmatising stereotypes of schizophrenia.

However, this film could give offence to any number of groups of persons, and persons associated with those groups, including but not limited to schizophrenics and the mentally ill, Afro Americans, dwarfs (more recently referred to as little people), albinos, those concerned with animal rights, and even police and law enforcement officers.

The Board was of the opinion that the dominant effect of the film was that of a comedy which contained verbally explicit sexual references, depictions of violence, and frequent use of obscene language set firmly in the context of what has become an accepted genre of "bad taste" film-making.

This tempered the impact and any degree of possible or likely injury, although there was still a potential for harm.

Taking all matters into account and balancing all factors with care, the Board came to the unanimous view that an age restriction of 13 years was too low but that persons 15 years of age would have a sufficient level of maturity and an ability to discriminate and make the necessary distinctions within the context of this particular film. Therefore, the film should be restricted to persons of 15 years of age and over and should contain the appropriate descriptive note of “content may offend”.

OFLC Ref: 1254